

We claim:

1. 3-Methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone, and its acid addition salts.
- 5 2. 3-Methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone hydrochloride.
3. The use of 3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone or its acid addition salts for preparing N-methyl-3-(1-naphthyloxy)-3-(2-thienyl)propylamine or its acid addition salts.
- 10 4. The use according to claim 3 for preparing (+)-(S)-N-methyl-3-(1-naphthyloxy)-3-(2-thienyl)propylamine oxalate (Duloxetine[®]).
- 15 5. The use according to claim 3, wherein 3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone or its acid addition salts is/are reduced to (1S)-3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)propan-1-ol or its acid addition salts.
- 20 6. A process for preparing (+)-(S)-N-methyl-3-(1-naphthyloxy)-3-(2-thienyl)propylamine oxalate (Duloxetine[®]), wherein 3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone, or an acid addition salt thereof, is prepared as intermediate.
- 25 7. The process according to claim 6, wherein 3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanone, or an acid addition salt thereof, is reduced to (1S)-3-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)propan-1-ol, or an acid addition salt thereof.
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the reduction is carried out using a microbial dehydrogenase.